

"I am He" Jesus Presents Himself Sovereign In His Power
(Revelation 1:17-18)

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We have been taking a close look at the I am He or "It is I" of our Lord Jesus, focusing in on how he presents Himself.

But here in the Book of Revelation we see a presentation of Christ Jesus that staggers the imagination. It is very fitting that we find such a scene in this book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation. The word Rev is translated from the word apokalypsis which means to unveil. This book is truly the unveiling of Christ, that he is the all powerful God of the universe, that he is exactly who he claimed to be. In these uncertain days where life is seeming

reeling out of control, we all can draw strength from a vision of Christ in S.P.
I. We See His Sovereign Power in His Visage (vs 17 when I saw)

Now I know that sounds like a big fancy word, but I use it for a specific reason. The word visage means the same as appearance or countenance. The most memorable time word is used. #1 describe Jesus during

A. In His Garments vs 13 - The robe he was wearing was common to that of a High Priest. He is just that. Our great High priest that is touched w/ the feelings of our infirmities and who is ever interceding w/ Father on our behalf. At Calvary he was stripped as soldiers gamble

for his clothing as he died for the sins of the world. Oh but now robed in Majesty lending to the churches. It also said that he was girt about the paps w/ a golden girdle. #2 - chest area. Aaron High Priest's robe & is described similarly

B. In His Grasp - vs 16a+b c In vs. 20 God's Word tells us that the seven stars are the "angles of the Seven Churches" Angles = messengers. Some believe that these are the seven Pastors of the seven churches to whom this letter is addressed or could be seven Supernatural messengers sent to protect these churches either way. They are in the hands of the Sovereign God and he is in complete control. Also a sword pictured = The Word of God Heb 4:12. It is by his word that he will execute Judgment On that great & horrible day of Judgment

C. In His Glory - vs 14-15, 16c - The white hair and head speak of His purity. When Daniel saw the Lord Jesus in Dan 7:9 described him as the ancient of days... whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool. The accusations flew at the mock trial but guilt could not be placed. "I find no fault in this man." vs 16 The eyes of the Lord are a burning flame that pierce past our deceptions and our cheap facade and sees you and I for who we really are. vs 15 His feet are brass, unstoppable crushing anything in its path

II. We See His Sovereign Power in His Vitality

Upon seeing such a glorious & powerful sight, John reacts very much the way Paul did in Acts 9. fell before him with face to ground. We can only deduce that our reaction will be the same. What a picture of Salvation we see in vs 17.

A. His Sovereignty is Demonstrated - c In the first and the Last. The reason John has nothing to fear is that he is under the hand of Almighty God.

Is 44:6 God makes claim... This will put your "I was an the run in some words here & in some breath" and was dead... Jesus makes same claim for Himself. Either Blasphemy or

1) ...Jesus looked like during the crucifixion. **Isaiah 52:14** As many were astonished at thee; his **visage** was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: But here, Jesus is not on the cross. He is the resurrected victorious Christ. Here he is one that is "all together lovely." So, what did John see that had such a profound effect on him. We are fortunate that there is a description of what he saw in verses 12-16.

2) ...described very similarly. Aaron's robe and girdle were "for glory and beauty." It is interesting to note that at the beginning of the book of Revelation, the reader is embarking on a journey who's ultimate destination is the judgment of all. One author writes that the girdle indicates "All His emotions are rigidly restrained. He will judge impartially."

3) **Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

4) ...judgement, when all the nations shall gather to destroy Israel, One word from this sharp sword of the KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS will lay in waste all nations that come against Him.

5) His judgment is coming. His voice that has beckoned so long with the low whisper of Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I'll give you rest, now are a roar that silences excuses and blasphemy. The jokes of the scoffer and the ridicule of the atheist are drowned in his words! Lastly in Vs 16. The brightness of his glory pierces the eyes of John. am the light of the world" says Jesus. What glory! What power! As none eye has ever seen! I Am HE!!!!!!

6) But what a picture of Salvation we see in 17. There is John "as dead" and Jesus reaches and touches him to make him alive. Oh how well do I remember being dead in trespasses and in sins and he touched me Oh he touched me and oh the joy ... Then Jesus words, Fear not. What scenes must have flashed through the mind of John beginning with the phrase, "I know that voice." On a stormy see, to a group of anxious disciples, in an upper room.

7) **Isaiah 44:6** Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.

Colossians 1:16-17 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

John 10:18 No man taketh [my life] from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again....

Hebrews 2:9 ...that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God,

1 Corinthians 15:17 And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins.

I imagine in my mind's eye that many people had signed hotel register death. They had signed in there. Man, death had seen all kinds come in there. And the Lord Jesus signed in one day. I can see as death threw that register around there, and the Lord took that black pen of death. And old death look at him and said "you troubled us. You've raised Jari's" daughter and the widow of Names son. You raised up Lazarus, but we'll get them all back. But aww we've been a waitin' on you. Go ahead and sign in sir. And He takes that black Pen of death and he signs three letters, one and a half words. And he signed "I Am." And death goes to shaking. Deaths knees go to knockin' and death says "I've seen names like Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, but what kind of name is this I Am. And the Lord said "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" again. And He checked in. Three days and three nights later. 71 hours, 59 min, 59 seconds. Praise God there's a rustling in them grave clothes, and He got up, He got up He got up! And he ever lives, he ever lives to make intercession for us.

.. the life after death." Here it is as though Jesus holds up the trophy of His eternal victory!

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 ...when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;

Sovereignty, Paul had it right when he said in Col 1:16-17. He is the origin of all things and the culmination of all things. The first & last, Great I am B. His Sacrifice is Declared - liveth + was dead

Saying John, recognize me I am the one you know and saw die. With the words and was dead, no doubt his mind went back to those gruesome scenes at Calvary. This phrase could be more literally translated as "became dead", the state of death. Remember Jesus said. In 10:18. He gave his life and entered death that (Heb 2:9) 1 Pet 3:18. This Glorious living, powerful God became man, to die on our behalf.

C. His Supremacy is Displayed - Behold!

Means an imperative command to look! Look I am alive and alive forever more! The facts surrounding His resurrection are indisputable. He came to live again. Thank God, Jesus died on that cross, but if he had not got up out of that grave, we'd still be in our sins. 1 Cor 15:17. That old preacher Buster Seaton paints the picture of the resurrection well:

III. We See His Sovereign Power in His Victory
One author writes that Jesus' possession of the Keys of Hell + death "implies that He is Sovereign over physical death which terminates life in this world as well as over hell".
A. He is Victorious over the Penalty of Sin - Hell is the eternal torment that awaits all those that reject the gracious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. 2 Thes. 1:7-9 This day is

the place reserved for God's wrath upon sin. But through the death of the Lord Jesus he now has power, sovereign authority to deliver those that believe on and trust in His name from the wrath to come. (Thes

1:10). How is this possible? How can he deliver from wrath? Because His death upon the cross was an acceptable sacrifice for sin. He now has the authority or the Keys, to release all those that believe upon His name from the final ^{Judgment}.

B. He is victorious over the Passage of Sin. It is an inevitable part of life. 10 out of 10 people die. Heb 9:27. And as it is... Rom 5:12 Wherefore as by one man... We are all terminal. We are all going to experience physical death.

But for the believer in Christ Jesus, there is hope in death. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor 15:51. For the believer death is merely a transition into the presence of the Lord. While our physical bodies await the resurrection from the dead. By virtue of His substitutional death on the cross, Jesus Christ has authority over death. He holds the Keys of death.

IV. Closing - Jesus Christ is Almighty God, who will one day Judge the world in righteousness. If you do not know him today in saving faith, repent & believe. If you do know this all powerful Saviour take comfort in his central.

1 Thessalonians 1:10 And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.

1 Corinthians 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.